
NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH
100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE N1058(B)
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
PHONE (317) 232-3777
FAX (317) 232-8779

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

State partnership advances transparency for Hoosiers

INDIANAPOLIS (November 16, 2011) – The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”), in cooperation with the Indiana Business Research Center (“IBRC”) at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business, launched the second phase of a new online data collection system and public access website that substantially increases transparency and accessibility of local government finance information for Hoosiers.

In its first phase, the system, known as the Indiana Gateway for Government Units (“Gateway”), allowed local officials to submit 2012 budget forms electronically from July 1 to November 3.

As part of the second phase, these budget figures are now incorporated into an interactive, taxpayer-friendly research website, <https://gateway.ifionline.org/>, where figures can be easily compared against other units and analyzed per capita. The public site allows taxpayers to access relevant data by property address, view up-to-the-minute budget summary information and download customizable reports.

“Once Gateway is fully implemented, with a few mouse clicks, citizens can obtain local government budgets, property tax information, debt tallies, and spending reports,” Department Commissioner Brian Bailey said.

Local officials also will use Gateway to submit annual reports to the State Board of Accounts, allowing users to tie budget information to expenditure information easily for the first time. They also will report debt information through Gateway, providing taxpayers with information about borrowing costs and overall indebtedness. This data, which local officials must submit by March 1, will be made available through the public access website this spring.

“By linking local government finance to the other data hosted on Stats Indiana, policy makers and businesses will have information at their fingertips to help them make fiscal decisions in the context of their overall community, or communities they may consider joining,” IBRC Deputy Director and Chief Information Officer Carol Rogers said.

The initiative is a joint effort of the Department, IBRC, and the State Board of Accounts through the Information for Indiana (“IFI”) program, a collaborative project launched by Governor Mitch Daniels in July 2005.

Additionally, last year, the State launched the Indiana Transparency Portal, www.in.gov/itp, which provides Hoosiers with access to information on how the State is utilizing its resources and includes information on state contracts, employee salaries, budget, revenue data, state debt authority and more.

Gateway builds upon the success of the award-winning Indiana Transparency Portal and extends the transparency to local units of government. More information about the Indiana Transparency Portal is available at <http://www.in.gov/itp>.

Contact: Amanda Stanley, 317.233.9218, astanley@dlgf.in.gov
Carol Rogers, 317.274.2205, rogersc@iupui.edu

###